AIM

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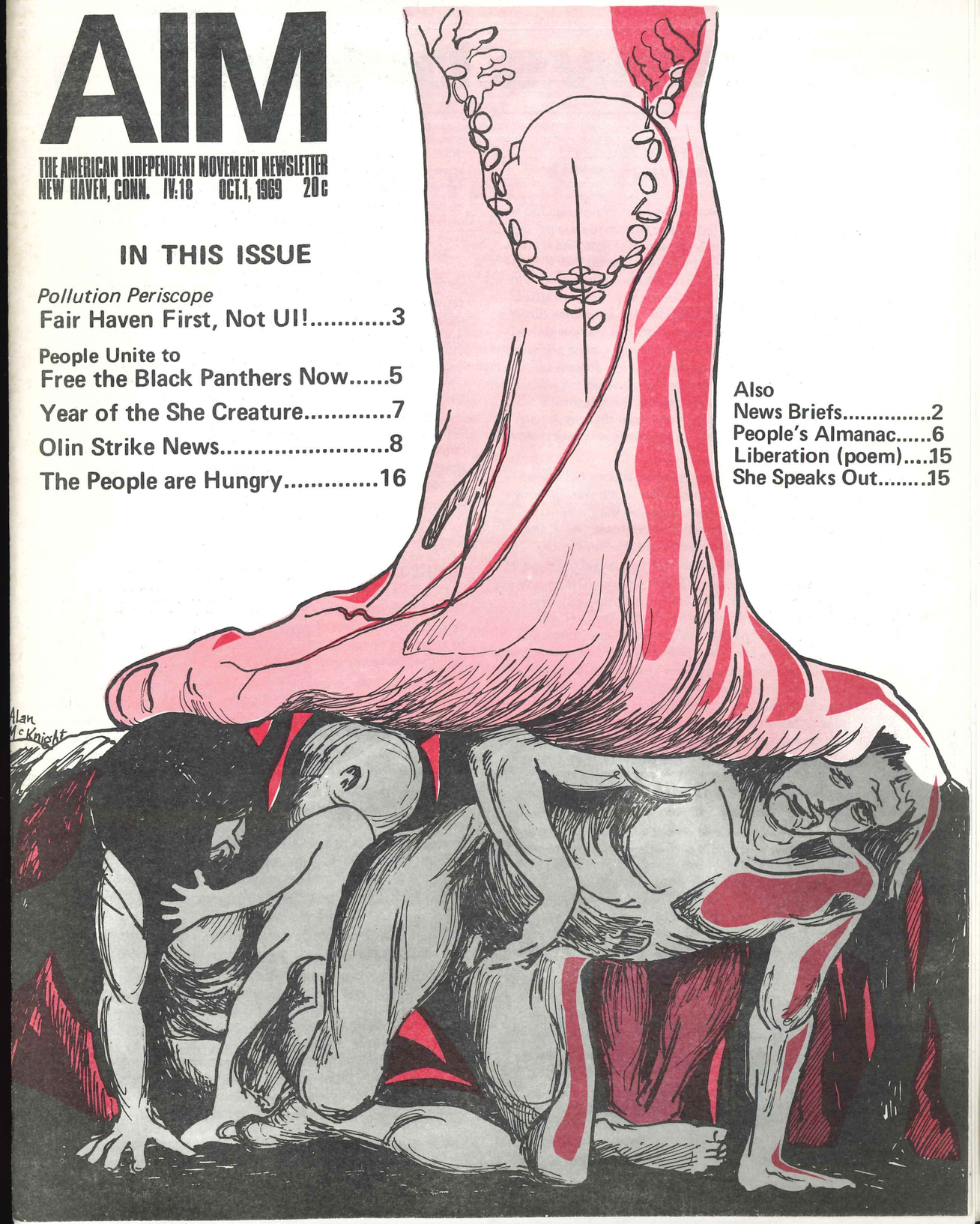

news briefs

NEW HAVEN COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE FALL OFFENSIVE AGAINST VIETNAM WAR

For the last year, the anti–war movement in America has been too quiet. Few large–scale attacks have been made against this country's brutal involvement in Vietnam. But now, the continued presence of 500,000 troops, the shift of tactics from pitched battles back to indiscriminate saturation bombing, and the farce of the Paris Peace Talks, have clearly demonstrated the attitude of the Nixon administration. It has become obvious the large numbers of Americans must demand loudly and clearly the immediate withdrawal of American troops and an end to the American domination of Southeast Asia. Recent opinion polls show some 59% of Americans opposed to the war. Yet, bloody battles are still fought daily by Americans in Vietnam. President Nixon must be told again that the American people will no longer tolerate an aggressive war waged in our name.

In the next two months, many national actions have been planned to demonstrate public opposition to the war. In New Haven these activities will be coordinated by the Committee for the Fall Offensive to End the War in Vietnam. AIM, the Draft Action Group, New Haven SDS, and the Resistance, have initiated the committee, which will be a broad coalition of local political, social, and religious organizations. The committee will try to reactivate and reinvolve the liberal anti–war community, which has been silent for the last year. It will also attempt to involve people in the New Haven community who have only recently become active in opposition to the war. The committee has discussed plans for several activities, including a petition drive demanding immediate withdrawal of all Americans from Vietnam. Participation in the November 13–15 National March on Washington sponsored by the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam.will be encouraged. Arrangements are being made to provide bus transportation for those who are interested in going to Washington. Plans are also underway for teach–ins at local colleges.

It has been too long a time when last a large number of angry Americans joined together in active opposition to the war. The Fall Offensive will be successful only if many people help. Please Contact the Fall Offensive at the AIM office (787-0123).

–Alan Kay

ICC HOLDS RAILROAD HEARINGS

The Interstate Commerce Commission is the government regulating agency responsible for controlling fares in interstate transportation. It can keep fares from rising if it believes it is in the public interest to do so. If the public shows no interest, as in the past, the fares go up anyway.

AIM sent representatives to the ICC railroad hearings in Bridgeport September 18, and in New Haven September 19. Hardly anyone else was there. Obviously we have not done enough to convince people that more and cheaper mass transit is the only way to stop the spiral of air pollution, traffic delays, and the destruction of housing and small businesses for highways and parking garages. The witnesses and audience at the hearings were out numbered by the six representatives of the railroad.

In New Haven one mayoral candidate, Paul Capra, came to testify to the people's opposition to fare increases and deteriorating service. He did not have prepared testimony, but he seconded the proposals of the previous speaker, who was the AIM representative.

We asked the ICC not only to deny fare increases, but to reduce fares to 1956 levels. We asked the ICC to demand that the railroad not only improve present trains, but put back the trains they cut from service or give up the roadbed to someone who will. We showed that the Penn Central is plenty rich enough to pay for improved and cheaper service. And we argued that it was urgent to get travellers back into railroad cars, and necessary for the survival of our cities.

–Alan McKnight

CMHC UNDERCUTS COMMUNITY

The Yale University Medical Center is currently going through a crucial test of the seriousness of its stated intention to allow the people of the community to have a say about the way the Center provides necessary services to inner-city residents.

On August 29, an incident occurred at the Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC) – a state and federally funded, Yale-run, mental health facility for the New Haven community. A staff psychiatrist considered taking punitive measures against an upset black patient. The incident started a review of policies, procedures and priorities of the CMHC. An emergency meeting was held at the CMHC concerning this incident, with Mr. Fred Harris, the special assistant to the executive director, and several others. Following this a meeting was set up with the new executive director of the CMHC, Dr. Reiser; the Dean of the Medical School, Dr. F.C. Redlich; and Seven-Together, a group from the seven inner city communities.

On September 2, a meeting was held with Dr. Redlich and Mr. Kaplan representing the univeristy; Drs. Reiser, Tischler, and Astrachan representing the administration of the CMHC; and neighborhood residents representing "Seven Together."

"Seven Together" stated clearly that it wanted to cooperate with Dr. Reiser and the CMHC staff to develop programs and policies more relevant to the people served. They requested: (1) that Dean Redlich pledge his support for Dr. Reiser's decisions and grant Dr. Reiser the power and autonomy to implement programs; (2) that the Dean support the representation of local community people on the CMHC Board. Dean Redlich verbally agreed.

Because of previous difficulties in communication with

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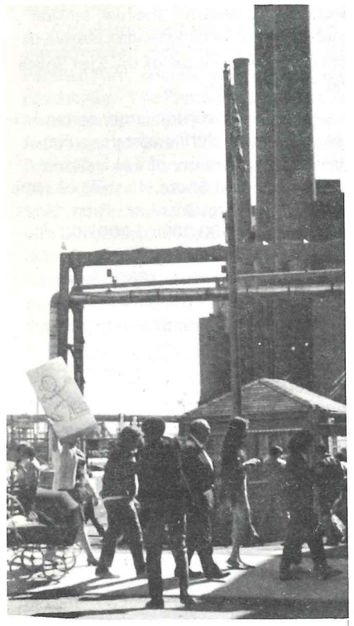
POLLUTION PERISCOPE

Fair Haven First, Not UI!



Virginia Fortino (Photo)

by John Moulder

Many Fair Haven residents were angered by U.I.'s recent proposal to build overhead high tension lines along the Mill and Quinnipiac Rivers. Led by the Fair Haven Betterment Association (FHBA) nearly 150 people marched on U.I. Sunday chanting "Stop the U.I." to express their opposition to the proposal. The protest ended with a rally at Quinnipiac Park. This park will be surrounded by high tension wires if U.I. has its way.

The march was part of the Betterment Association's campaign to rally public opinion against the power lines. The campaign is an attempt to force a government agency (either the Army Corps of Engineers, the Public Utilities Commission or the Water Resources Commission) to refuse to grant U.I. permission to deface Fair Haven with its lines.

The FHBA is also circulating a petition to oppose the high tension wires and to press for public hearings in New Haven on the project. So far, over 1000 signatures have been collected on the petition. Indications are that both the Public Utilities Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers will hold hearings.

U.I. – A Blight on Fair Haven

U.I. has been a blight on Fair Haven for many years. It is the largest single source of air pollution in the city. According to a report issued by the New Haven Bureau of Environmental Health last summer, on an average *day* U.I. spews into the city's air, among other things:

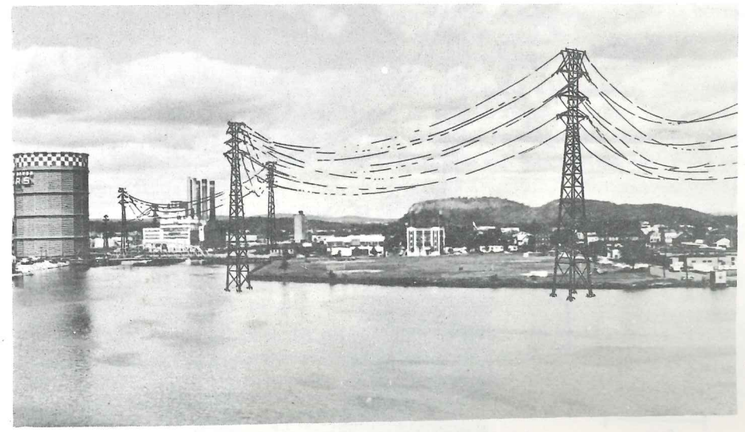
11 Tons of Nitrogen Oxide
31 Tons of Sulfur Oxides
2 Tons of Particulate Matter (Dust and Soot)

This mess makes up 63% of the total industrial, municipal and institutional air pollution in New Haven. This pollution in turn is 20% of the total air pollution in the city. The prevailing winds bring most of this pollution to Fair Haven. For instance, nearly *275 tons* of dust fell on each square mile of Fair Haven in 1967. Only *80 tons* of dust fell on an equivalent area of Westville during the same year.

These pollutants corrode metals, and rot and soil clothing. They discolor buildings and damage plants. They are a menace to human health. In short, *they degrade Fair Haven as a place to live in.*

The actual cost of air pollution in Connecticut has been estimated at $600 per family per year. In New Haven, U.I. is responsible for at least 20% of this, or $120 per family per year. What has U.I. spent to clean up its pollution? As of the beginning of 1967, U.I. had invested $2.4 million in pollution control equipment in the 16 townships it serves. This comes out to $12 per family. According to pollution control engineers, there *are* ways in which U.I. could greatly reduce the "pollution tax" which it levies on the public.

Residents are sick and tired of U.I. because for years it has not been living up to its social responsibilities to the community. It is little wonder that U.I.'s plans to put monstrous high tension lines through Fair Haven were the last straw for the community. A U.I. press release says that "the area surrounding the proposed line is largely industrial and is not



N.H. City Plan Commission (photo)

adjacent to any residential areas." Who do they think they're kidding? Anyone familiar with New Haven will realize that the towers and lines will be clearly visible from residential areas less than two blocks away and will almost completely surround the only park in Fair Haven.

They're Big And They're Ugly

The plan that U.I. submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers on April 28 and to the city on August 26 calls for seven towers between the Grand Avenue Substation and the corner of Forbes and Waterfront (see map). U.I. announced in a September 15 press release that the line will continue along Waterfront Street to the old Connecticut Coke Company site which U.I. now owns. The highest of the towers will stand 175 feet above the level of the Mill River.

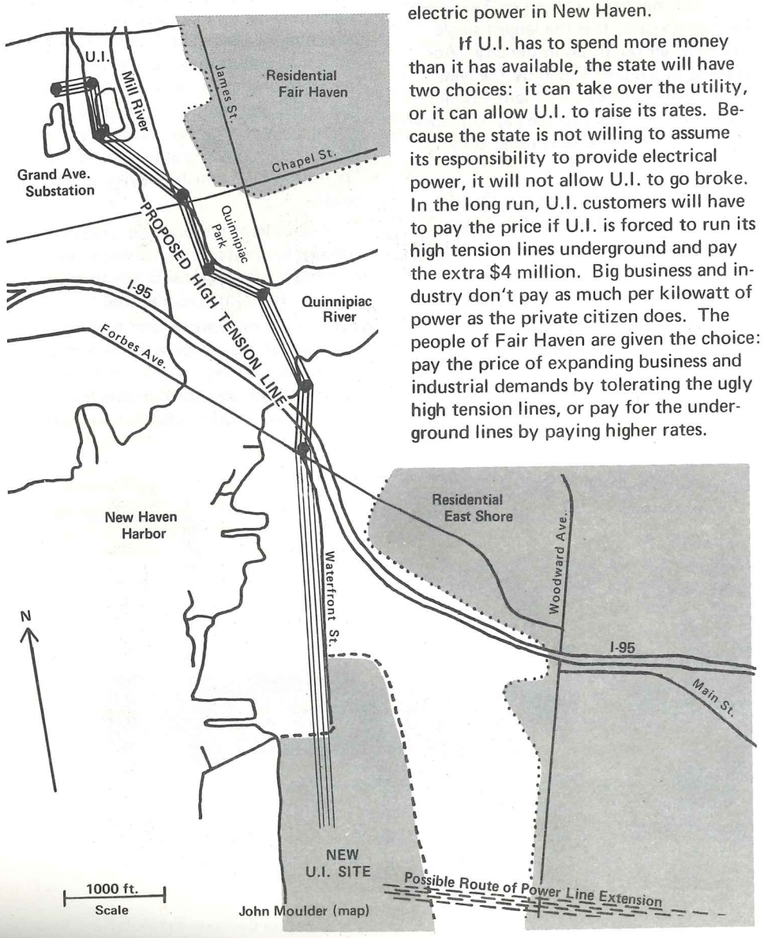
An artist's conception released by the New Haven City Plan Commission gives a good idea what the towers will look like from I-95. U.I. objects to this photo on the following grounds:

a) There will be only four wires instead of the eight shown.
b) The wires will not be as dark as shown in the photo.
c) The towers will not look that high.
d) The towers are "to be painted to blend with sky and water."

Again, who do they think they're kidding? Anyone who's been down the turnpike to New York knows what high tension lines look like: *They're Big and They're Ugly.*

Why can't the lines go underground or underwater? The U.I. press release lists two reasons: 1) it would be more difficult to repair underground lines, and 2) underground lines would cost more ($5 million for underground lines vs. $1 million for overhead ones). U.I. has a $4 million stake in getting approval for overhead lines. U.I. is a private, profit-making corporation with stockholders, but it has a complete monopoly over public electric power in New Haven.

If U.I. has to spend more money than it has available, the state will have two choices: it can take over the utility, or it can allow U.I. to raise its rates. Because the state is not willing to assume its responsibility to provide electrical power, it will not allow U.I. to go broke. In the long run, U.I. customers will have to pay the price if U.I. is forced to run its high tension lines underground and pay the extra $4 million. Big business and industry don't pay as much per kilowatt of power as the private citizen does. The people of Fair Haven are given the choice: pay the price of expanding business and industrial demands by tolerating the ugly high tension lines, or pay for the underground lines by paying higher rates.



The Implications ....

The plans released by U.I. don't show what the proposed high tension lines will connect up to. U.I. must be planning to build a new generating plant at its site on the East Shore and/or to extend the high tension lines further. The U.I. press release of September 15 makes it clear that an extension of the lines is definitely planned. In order to provide "another high voltage link with the Connecticut grid system", the high tension lines will have to be extended eastwards *across residential areas* of the East Shore and of East Haven.

Numerous contradictory statements have been made during past years concerning the possibility of a U.I. power plant on the East Shore. In spite of some denials, two things are clear. First, U.I.'s plans call for a 500,000 - 1,000,000 kilowatt power plant to be operating in the New Haven area before 1980. Second, the East Shore site fits all of U.I.'s criteria for a good place to build this plant.

Would such a plant use fossil fuel like the present one, or would it be a nuclear generator? In 1967, the President of U.I. told a *Journal-Courier* reporter that it was a "distinct possibility" that a nuclear generator would be built on the Connecticut Coke Company site on the East Shore. It is clear that U.I. would prefer to build a nuclear plant, but at this time the Atomic Energy Commission will not allow such plants within metropolitan areas.

What do these plans mean for New Haven? The construction of a new plant or the construction of a new high voltage link with other generating stations *might* allow U.I. to cut down on its use of the present power plant. This will only help cut down air pollution if the generating plant which takes over produces less pollution per kilowatt of power than the present system does.

Can such a clean generating plant be built? Acording to pollution control engineers, it is possible to build and operate a fossil fuel plant that is at least ten times as clean as the present power plant.

If such a plant were built, *if* it were built without massive damage to the communities on the East Shore, and *if* it resulted in the phasing out of the present facility, New Haven would benefit. But these are a lot of ifs, and past experience with privately-owned public utilities, U.I. in particular, indicates that the people of New Haven will have to keep a very close watch over U.I.

People Unite to FREE THE BLACK PANTHERS NOW

On May 22, 1969, eight workers of the Black Panther Party in New Haven were arrested on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Subsequently, seven other Panthers (including Black Panther Party Chairman, Bobby Seale) have been arrested and charged with the same crimes.

A coalition has been formed to aid in the defense of local members of the Black Panther Party charged with murder and conspiracy. The Panthers have been harrassed continually by local, state, and federal authorities. The coalition, whose formation was announced on September 29, will work in several ways to help defend the Panthers. Education campaigns will be run on the injustice that has been done to the Panthers, and funds for legal expenses will be raised. Work will also be done to bring other organizations into the coalition. The basis for this coalition is given in their founding statement (see box this page).

The Government Crush

Meanwhile, the persecution of the Panthers across the country goes on. The government continues to use the New Haven case as an excuse to arrest Panthers all across the country. Most seriously, the FBI arrested Panther National Chairman Bobby Seale in San Francisco on August 19, and charged him with murder and conspiracy in connection with the murder of Alex Rackley in New Haven. On September 12, Seale, in the words of his lawyer Charles Garry, was 'kidnapped' by FBI agents and taken to Chicago—despite a local court order that he remain in San Francisco until September 23 in order to consult with Garry on both the New Haven and Chicago charges. (The Chicago case accuses Seale of crossing state lines to incite riot and conspiracy during the *four hours* he was in town during the Democratic Convention.)

People with long memories will understand what is going on. The government is trying to crush the Black Panther Party just as they smashed the IWW after World War One and the progressive movement of the 1950's. In this effort, they will use every means available, 'legal' or not. Even the people doing it are the same: J. Edgar Hoover and Attorney-General Mitchell are old hands in the business of crushing popular dissent. They know from long experience the easy formula: tie up the activists in court with any possible charge, then deny bail and inflame the public press so that a fair trial is impossible. Even if the activists are eventually proven not guilty, the government's object is achieved anyway, since all efforts after the arrest must center around legal defense , and this takes time and money away from community and workplace organizing.

The Coalition for the Defense of the Panthers must stop this government plot from succeeding. Hard work is needed to counteract the fear and confusion that always follow an arrest. Looking back, it is clear that the government has a long record of politically—oppressive prosecutions: think of Sacco and Vanzetti, Tom Mooney, and the Rosenbergs, as examples, as well as the more recent cases of Huey Newton, Eldridge Cleaver, and Dr. Spock. Yet, in each of these cases, people who sensed that an injustice was being done, were hesitant to step forward and oppose it because they couldn't decide whether or not the government and the press were telling the truth. It is easy to say, in retrospect, that those Americans were framed and judicially murdered. But the question is, would we have stood up to oppose injustice at the time when it mattered?

Panthers Keep Going

One thing is certain, the Panthers themselves continue to act despite the intense persecution levelled against them. At a time when four of the five top Panther leaders are in jail, and the local New Haven party has been devastated by arrests on many flimsy charges, the Panthers continue their political activities to serve the people both locally and nationally.

As has been reported before, one of the main Panther programs is a free breakfast program for ghetto children who might otherwise go to school hungry. This program was the one the Party was working on at the time of the arrests last spring.

STATEMENT OF THE COALITION

The Coalition for the Defense of the Panthers comprises organizations and individuals who are working for a fair trail of the Black Panthers. Fourteen Panthers are now in jail awaiting trial on conspiracy to murder and other capital charges. Conspiracy is the hardest charge to defend and the easiest to prosecute: it is the most unfair to any defendant. All are being held without bail. They have been denied a preliminary hearing and many other basic constitutional rights.

The Coalition fears that a fair trial of the Panthers is virtually impossible unless concerned citizens try to counteract the campaign of public hysteria against the Panthers that was launched only hours after their arrest. The May 22 *New Haven Register,* for example, carried mug shots of arrested Panthers all across the front page as accompaniment to a highly inflammatory article in which several 'leaks' from police sources were cited to describe alleged evidence against the Panthers. The tone of this article and others, coupled with the disclosure of evidence which, if it exists at all, should only be introduced at the trial, is an attempt to violate the Panthers' constitutionally—guaranteed presumption of innocence and ensure conviction of the Panthers before the trial even begins.

The Black Panther Party takes radical political positions, and members of the party, in violation of their constitutional rights, are on trial for those positions. The arrests of Bobby Seale, national chairman of the Party, raises the possibility that this trial will become the Sacco and Vanzetti trial of the 1970's. It is this that the Coalition seeks to avoid.

The Coalition has two major goals: 1) To counteract the prejudicial publicity against the Panthers by educating New Haven citizens about the Panthers' positive community programs and about the legal rights which they must receive to have a fair trial, and 2) To raise money for the legal defense of the Panthers and to carry on the work of the Coalition in the Panthers' behalf.

The trial and other steps in the defense of the Panthers will be very expensive, particularly since such a large number of people have been arrested. The Coalition calls upon all citizens who are concerned to see justice done to contribute to the Panther defense.

During the arrests, the police 'confiscated' the money the Panthers had already collected for the breakfast program. Now, with a new staff, the Panthers in addition to defending themselves are putting together a new breakfast program for the Hill, Dixwell, and Newhallville areas.

But the main point is, if the Panthers can continue their work despite such persecution, will those who believe they have a right to continue this work also stand up and be counted? And the answer, of course, is yes, we must do so. We must fight against a trial by newspaper, against the federal battering ram, against Hoover and Mitchell, and against our own fear and doubt and confusion. Join with the Coalition, or with the Panthers, and help in any way that you can.

If you would like to:

1) Help the Panthers, call Doug Miranda or Joel Brown, Panther breakfast coordinator, for details.

Their temporary address and phone are: 760 Orchard St., 624—5475.

2) Work for the Coalition for the Defense of the Panthers, call John Bancroft, 865—3769, Matt Borenstein, 624—0095, or Peter Orris, 624—3338.

HUEY NEWTON SPEAKS

The ultimate form of capitalism, which is what we have in America today, exists where a small group of men has another group enslaved simply for profit. What is missing in this system is the production of goods (and provision of services) based upon the needs of the people, and not for profit making purposes. Also, in this system, the masses of people do not participate in the decisions as to what products shall be produced, what services offered, or where either are to be distributed. This makes for unequal distribution, which makes for suffering and privation for millions of people.

Production of goods, and their consumption, forms the basis of modern social relations. He who controls production and consumption controls everyone in society. Because private ownership of the means of production has such a great effect upon all the people, it must be destroyed. Everyone has to live, and in order to live he has to produce. But in a capitalistic society he never produced for use. He always produced for profit, and this is a slave situation.

It is a historical fact that blacks were brought into this country for the profit of the ruling class, whichat that time were the land owners. They needed someone to till the soil and grow profitable crops. Today we have shifted from an agrarian economy to a goods-production economy. But the same relationships exist between the private owner and the worker. Nothing has changed. Therefore, for the working people to be free, they must seize control of the means of production.

All members of the working class must seize the means of production. This naturally includes black people. But as I said before, to do this we must become psychologically free so that we can be fully capable of meaningful self-determination. Capitalism deprives us all of self-determination. Only in the context of socialism can men practice the self-determination necessary to provide for their freedom. This is the ultimate objective of the Black Panther Party. We are attempting to transform an oppressive capitalistic society into a socialistic society in which each man shall participate in the decisions that affect his life, thus making him free.

—Huey P. Newton
Ebony *August, 1969*

people's almanac

—Liberation News Service

October 1, 1865—World convention of workers and liberal reformers, led by Robert Owen, the Utopian Socialist, meets in New York City.

October 1, 1949—500,000 steel workers in 29 plants strike for higher wages and pension plan.

October 2, 1800 Nat Turner, black insurrectionary leader, born.

October 2, 1929—Sheriff and deputies in Marion, N.C., shoot pickets in back, 6 dead, 20 wounded.

October 2, 1968—At least 200 persons killed and many more wounded as Mexican riot police fire on crowd at Plaza de las Tres Culturas, near the Tlateloco Housing Project in Mexico City.

October 3, 1967—GI's at Ft. Hood, Texas revolt the night before their scheduled departure for Vietnam. The Pentagon describes the event as a "beer brawl". Subsequent events confirm that it was the first of many anti-war GI actions.

October 5, 1931—23,000 textile workers in Lawrence, Mass., began a strike against wage cuts.

October 6, 1918—First conference of women trade unionists adopted a platform at Washington D.C.

October 7, 1765—Stamp Act Congress in New York brought together delegates from nine colonies. Revolution was brewing.

October 7, 1821—Birthday of William Still, black abolitionist leader and leading figure in the Underground Railroad.

October 7, 1879—Birthday of Joe Hill, mine worker, troubadour and organizer for the International Workers of the World.

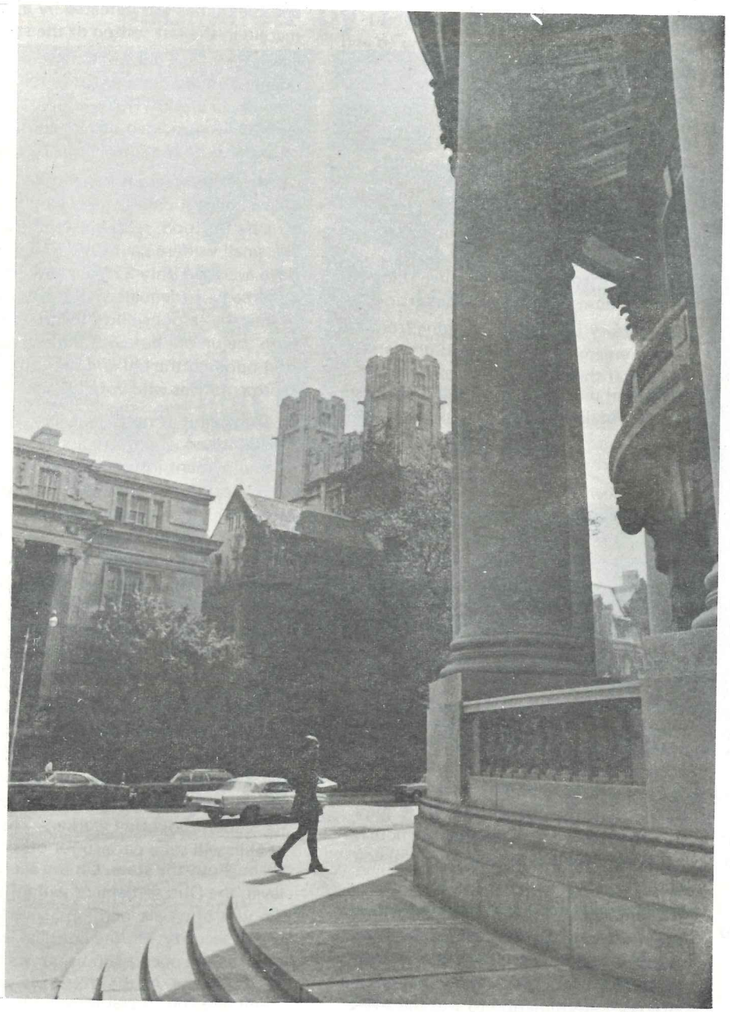
October 9, 1635—Roger Williams banished from Mass. for preaching separation of church and state.

October 12, 1898—Striking miners in Virden, Ill., used rifles and machine guns to drive a trainload of scabs out of town. For 24 years afterward, no one scabbed in the Illinois mines.

October 14, 1949—11 leaders of the Communist Party found guilty of Smith Act violation for alleged conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. government by force and violence. (Beginning of Red Scare.)

October 14, 1968—Liu Shao-chi ousted as President of China, terminating years of struggle between Liu and Mao Tse-tung.

Year of the She Creature



Virginia Fortino (Photo)

by Virginia Fortino

This fall marks the beginning of what is predicted to be a strange new experience for Yale men—women at the University. This anticipation has been the source of much anxiety on the part of administrators, faculty and students. 'Will the women like it here? Will we like them? Will the social life be like dating your sister? What about Mory's? Are there enough cops? What do women eat? Is there a lady doctor in the house?' All the confusion and debate and questioning would seem to indicate that women are exotic creatures foreign to the experience of most Yale men, but they are foreign only because Yale men have been blind to the needs and feelings of the women they know and because Yale as an institution has consistently ignored the fact that there already *are* women at Yale—on the faculty and the staff, as graduate and professional students and as wives. Perhaps by looking at the way the University has responded to the presence of these women in the past we can get a realistic idea of how it will react to the new undergraduate women.

Despite all the current talk about the value of women at a university, Yale has all but excluded women from its tenured faculty. Out of a total of some 180, only three are women. Some departments have no women faculty at all, tenured or otherwise, though there is certainly no lack of qualified women. More than 25 women receive their PhD's from Yale alone every year. Yale may be the 'Mother of Men' but it appears that men, not women, do the mothering.

In a real sense women run Yale University: they operate its elevators, cook its food, clean its bathrooms, order, catalog and keep track of its books, type its manuscripts, answer its phones, open its mail, register its students, and generally handle its daily affairs. In return for these services, the University will pay women in the Federation of University Employees a maximum of only $2.16 per hour, do its best to prevent unorganized clerical and technical employees from forming their own union, break strikes of members of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees with student scab labor, and, on top of it all, havethe temerity to ask these same underpaid workers to kick in $10 a year to park.

All the special new feminine additions to the Yale scene were never thought to be necessary for the other women who spend many more than four years here. Women employees and faculty were not thought to need a gynecologist on the Department of University Health staff, nor special security for long walks at night (until after three nurses were raped), nor extra protein in their diet.

Too Smart For Their Own Good

Women graduate students have always been treated as strange exceptions to the rule of female inferiority. An article by Bonnie McGregor in *The New Journal* details the kind of psychological assault graduate and professional women must face. Professors and male students pour on the pressure to 'do what normal women do'—find a nice husband and settle down to home-making—and sure enough, many women quit. Those who stay are made to believe that they are somehow special, not like other women. Other women are flighty, undisciplined, intuitive, petty and empty-headed. By teaching a woman contempt for her own sex, Yale teaches her contempt for herself.

Continued on Page 13

Olin Fails to Start Serious Talks

by Ruth Meyerowitz

The 3,000 members of Victory Lodge 609, International Association of Machinists (IAM) have been on the picket line for 12 weeks. Although the company and the union have met across the negotiating table, Olin has refused to begin serious bargaining.

The company has made no concessions on the issues the union considers most important:

—protecting the wages and working conditions negotiated for the life of the contract

—improving pension benefits

—phasing out the incentive system so no workers lose money

—providing medical insurance which pays the full cost of health care. (See the *Olin Strike News* for a more complete explanation of the issues.)

The commercial press has confused the public into thinking the economic issues are the most important by focusing on the controversy around the elimination of the incentive system. The union does not object to phasing out the incentive system. It does, however, object to Olin's plan for doing so. The company's plan would cause a loss of wages of up to $1000 a year for more than a third of its workers.

Emphasizing the questions around incentive obscures the union's major demand—that it have the power to protect its members. The union wants the right to challenge the company's arbitrary power to set and change job classifications and standards of production to be written into the contract. Unless the union wins this demand it will not be able to prevent speed-ups or head off attempts to reduce wages .

The Company is to Blame

The union's demands are an accepted part of most contracts negotiated in the state. They are obviously reasonable. Why then has the company provoked a long strike?

The company's motives are not clear. Among the economic reasons for prolonging the strike may be the current decline in the demand for sporting equipment. The company stockpiled huge inventories of guns in preparation for the strike and for an expanding sporting arms market. The long strike will enable Olin to empty its warehouses and at the same time save money on its usual weekly payroll of $394,257. Inventories are probably low by now, and as hunting season begins demand for guns may put additional pressure on the company to end the strike.

But the question of the balance of power between the company and the union is probably more important. After years of non-cooperation, unions at Olin plants throughout the country are trying to coordinate their bargaining efforts. Olin, however, has thwarted these attempts. In 1966 the company refused to allow negotiators from unions at other Olin plants to observe its bargaining sessions with Victory Lodge 609. Judging from the pattern emerging at other Olin plants, it seems that the company is testing the strength of unions everywhere. Olin has tried to obtain contract extensions at all

The New Haven strike is the longest of Olin's tests of union strength. The company made a concerted effort to break the union. Besides refusing to make any major compromises, the company has tried a variety of union-busting techniques. It tried to bypass the union and appeal directly to workers through newspaper ads, a letter to employees stating its money offer, and phone calls to workers' homes. It tried to bribe the strikers into an early settlement by withholding the vacation pay negotiated under the last contract until a new contract is signed. The company also tried to play incentive workers off against the hourly workers in the old technique of "divide and conquer."

Fortunately for the strikers and for the rest of the labor movement in Connecticut, these efforts backfired. Anger at the company's ploys has increased the strikers' determination to win the strike to stop the company from trying to push them around forever.

Unequal Power

As the strike continues it has become clear that the company not only can afford, but wants a long strike. The responsibility for the hardship caused to strikers and their families, to small merchants, and to the city rests firmly on the company's shoulders.

In this unequal struggle, the company also has the support of other major employers in the city and the state agencies. These companies stick together and refuse to hire Olin strikers. The State Employment Service, which tries to stay on the good side of the companies, does not refer strikers for jobs.

A bill which would have helped equalize the balance of power between corporations and the unions was defeated by a narrow margin in the last session of the state legislature. This bill would have provided unemployment compensation to strikers after seven weeks. This compensation would have provided a more equitable way to underwrite the social costs of a strike

Under the present system the Welfare Department supplies emergency relief to strikers for food, rent, and clothing. Even the small welfare payments which to date have averaged only $26 per striker strain an already inadequate welfare budget. Again, the responsibility for this lies not with the union, but with the corporations that opposed the bill and the state representatives who voted against it.

Ironically, in states like New York and Rhode Island where strikers do get unemployment insurance after seven weeks, strikes are shorter and the cost to the people far less. Once the corporations lose the potential power to force major financial hardships on the strikes and thus bring the unions to their knees, there is no advantage to a long and costly strike. Statistics from New York and Rhode Island indicate the few strikes go beyond seven weeks. And the total cost of unemployment compensation has not gone up.

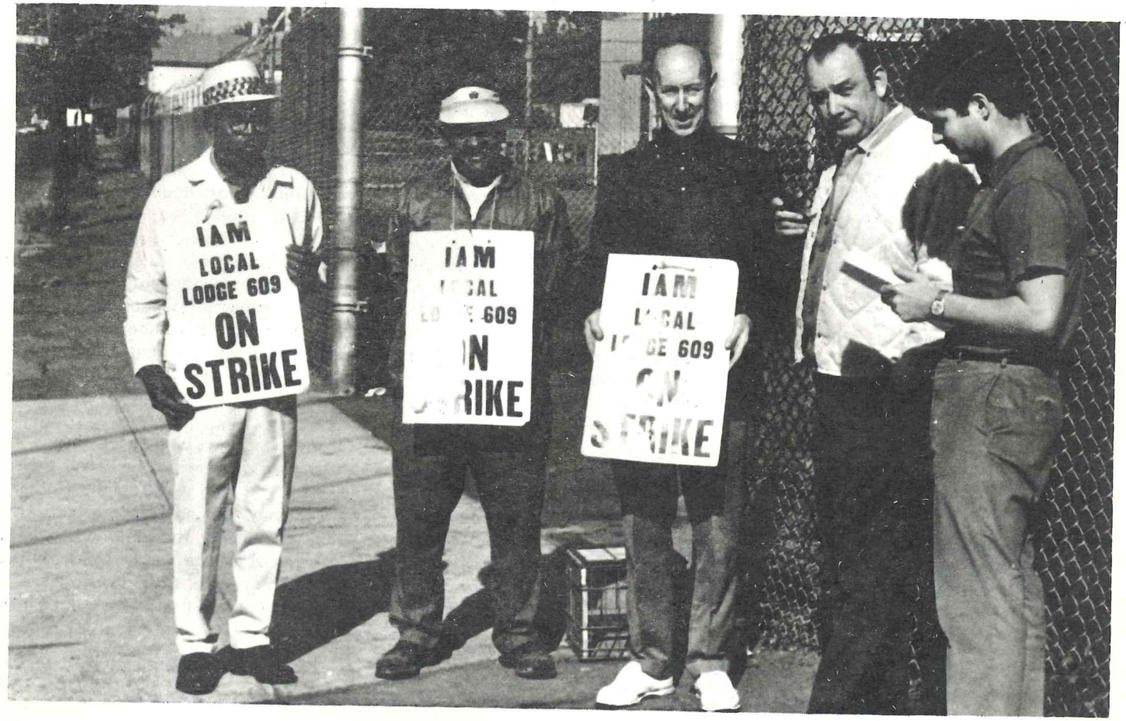
Statewide Impact

The Olin strike has rapidly become more more than just a struggle between New Haven's largest industrial employer and its 3,000 production workers. The outcome at Olin will set a pattern for other unions throughout the state. On the economic level, the Olin settlement will influence the amount of wages, pensions, speed-up, and union security. On the political level, unions may once again become a force for social change. As the Nixon era wears on, it will become crucial for unions to force industry and the government to plan for conversion to socially useful production like housing instead of guns and aircraft engines for wars like Vietnam. As mergers flourish and conglomerates form, the unions provide the most important check on the growing tendency for big businesses to run the society in their own interests. Both the ability of the unions to win new benefits for their members and their ability to preserve the hard-won gains of the past are at stake.

Support the Olin strikers. Contribute to the AIM Strike Fund.

OLIN STRIKE NEWS

published by the American Independent Movement



STRIKE IN 12th WEEK

The following article was written by a member of IAM Lodge 609.

What is it like inside Olin? Walking into Olin in the morining is like walking in a factory that is producing dust. The first breath of air into your lungs, and you think you're about to die.

In the winter of 1968 people in Dept. 4441 (ammo) had to work for two days with little or no heat; because of this, women became ill and were sick in bed for days to come. With sweltering heat in the summer, dust and propane gas from trucks and cold drafts in winter, working is very difficult.

The saddest thing I have seen at Olin took place in 1967. Cartridge packers were made, through Gestapo-type tactics, to produce more work for the same pay. The most loyal workers were conned into producing fifty more bandoliers. Because of many years of service loyalty, and fear of losing their jobs, everyone had to do more work.

Since everyone produced more, the third shift was no longer needed, the people were placed in other departments or given lay-off slips as thank-you letters.

There is no excuse for a company as large as Olin to deny its workers decent working conditions.

Most of all, there is no excuse for Olin to take advantage of people's fear and loyalty for their own gain. If it were not for the working people at Olin who give their sweat and backs, Olin would not have become as big as it has. For management is only as good as its workers, and we have proven ourselves. Olin is not concerned about its employees. If it were, it would give them their vacation checks. They aren't concerned about the health of workers; if they were, they would not cancel Blue Cross and CMS.

It is time for working people to join hands together and fight might with right. We must not return to work until our fair demands are met.
If we do we will be no more than cattle ready for the butcher.

We must return only with dignity and pride. And when we do we will show mighty Olin that we are people and not just clock numbers.

AIM EDITORIAL: OLIN DENIES WORKER SECURITY

Workers at Olin and workers at the Penn Central Railroad have some problems in common.

Workers at the New Haven Railroad had their life insurance paid by the company, even after retirement. Then the Penn Central took over the railroad. Now Penn Central says they won't pay the premiums for men who retired before December 31, 1969. The estate of the New Haven Railroad is supposed to pay, but it's bankrupt, which the Penn Central well knows. So 1200 people between the ages of 66 and 96 are now left out in the cold - their insurance coverage will end October 31. Who will write a new policy for a 70 year old man? No one.

Olin wants to play the same cruel game. They only want to pay pension benefits for those years after they took over the company in 1956. So the almost one third of Olin workers who have from 25 to 50 years of service would lose credit for all but the last 13. The only reason many people stay at Olin instead of taking a better job is because they have so many years. Now the company would take the years away, so a lot of people may have stayed for nothing.

What conclusion does AIM reach from these two examples? That the corporations have almost unlimited power when they want to use it. In both cases the workers were sure they had something. They had fought for it, and they had once signed contracts guaranteeing it. But when the new owners came in, it appeared that the rights of the workers could be traded away.

This is because Olin and the railroad and other corporations are owned by a few wealthy financiers who don't really care about pensions for their workers; they care about making higher and higher profits. (Olin has made $157 million in profits since 1966, almost double the $82 million they made from 1963 to 1966.)

The corporation owners don't like to share their power with anyone. That's why the company wants to have the right to reclassify jobs and change production standards without even consulting the union. It's important for the union to win this fight and to win the fight over pensions because the corporation's control over the workers has got to be pushed back.

To make their profits, the men who run Olin will squeeze their workers as hard as they can and raise their prices as high as they can. The men who run the big corporations control our economy, our government, and our lives. Freedom, security, and dignity for working people can be won only when the power of the corporations has been replaced by the power of the people. Only then can we run our country for the people, not for the profits of the rich..

What Is AIM ?

Since we first handed out the Olin Strike News a lot of people have been asking, 'What is AIM?' We are a political group in New Haven which tries to expose and organize against the unfair distribution and misuse of power in our city. But the best way to explain ourselves is to give a few examples of our work.

Recently, we leafletted at Olin and many other plants against the unfair tax system which taxes working people heavily, but lets the rich and the corporations off easy.

We have fought against companies running away from communities in order to find cheap, non-union labor elsewhere. During Bob Cook's congressional campaign, AIM hit Avco's plans to expand production at its South Carolina plant and to turn the Stratford plant into a research and development center. We said that the workers at Avco and the people in the area—not a few managers—should make that decision.

In New Haven, AIM has fought the Redevelopment Agency's policies of tearing down housing for workers and poor people to build highways, parking garages and luxury housing. AIM feels the city should be a place that can be lived in, not just a highway and parking garage so that people from the suburbs can go in comfort to the Chapel Mall.

In addition, AIM has fought against air and water pollution, has opposed the war in Vietnam, has worked for complete political and economic equality of black people, and has opposed the unfair power which tax-free Yale University has in New Haven and the way it has used that power.

AIM believes that the basic problem in America is the power of the wealthy few who run the big corporations that control our lives. They use their power to make bigger profits, not to serve the needs of working people. AIM believes that working people, if they are united, can win the fight to make the wealth of America serve their needs. In order to be united, working people need to fight for both equal opportunity and equal pay for equal work for all workers—white and black, men and women.

The working people of America can control what goes on in America. AIM is a group of people organizing to achieve that goal.

THE KEY ISSUES AT OLIN

Protection of Wages

Protection of wages for the life of the contract is the key issue in the strike. There are 12 labor grades in the Olin plant and all jobs are classified into one of those grades. Each labor grade has a different rate of pay , one being the highest, 12 the lowest. The company wants the right to reclassify a job at anytime. For example, it might want to take all toolmakers who now have labor grade 1, and give them grade 2, which would mean a cut in pay. In other words, no one would have a guarantee that he would get the wages indicated in the contract, since the company could change everyone's labor grade. At the present time, this issue can be submitted to mediation, but the mediator can only make recommendations. The company does not have to abide by them. The union is demanding that all changes in job classifications be through mutual agreement of the company and the union.

Incentive Work

The company wants to go off incentive to a straight hourly wage system. Under the company's plan for phasing out incentive some workers would lose as much as $3000 over a three year period. The union would agree to the elimination of incentive only if no workers lost pay as a result of it. The union proposes to take the average of a worker's paychecks over some period in the past and guarantee that wage to him until he voluntarily changes his job or retires.

Job Classification

Many jobs are now classified too low. The union wants to raise the classification of these jobs. The company is resisting.

Vacations

The union wants longer vacations for employees with 15 or more years of service. It also wants more vacation pay.

Pensions

The current Olin contract uses a minimum of $3.50 per month for each year of service in figuring pension benefits. This means that a worker with 30 years of service counting toward his pension would get a minimum of 30 x $3.50, or $105. per month. This is no longer enough to pay rent in New Haven. Most contracts currently being signed in Connecticut go for $5.50 or $6.00 The union here is asking for $6.00. Olin also refuses to count years of service toward the pension before the age of 30, and for years prior to 1956, when Olin took over Winchesters. This would be a special hardship for the more than 800 Olin workers who have 25 to 50 years of service. Under the company's proposal they would only get credit for 13 years of service . The union wants to drop these restrictions.

Cost of Living

The union wants either a short contract—one year or two—or a cost of living provision. The company would like a three year contract with no cost of living provision, in which case any wage increases would easily be eaten by rising prices.

Speed-up

The company's proposal includes a two paragraph so-called "productivity clause." This is just plain speed-up. The company wants the absolute right to determine levels of production without arbitration, which would destroy the union's ability to protect working conditions. This is the provision the company did not mention to the workers when they tried to go over the union's head at the beginning of the strike in July. The company sent letters about its contract offer to workers at home, put ads in the newspaper and had foremen call everyone in their department: this effort to confuse and divide Olin strikers was an insult to their intelligence. It gained the company nothing.

Medical Insurance

The union wants the company to adopt the "century plan". Under this plan, the insurance pays the full cost of medical care, based on what the doctor actually charges. The IAM pioneered this type of coverage at plants in New Britain. Over 1000 groups have adopted the plan since it was introduced less than a year ago. It is now being negotiated all over the state. The company's plan does not pay the full cost of medical care. It offers a fixed amount for each type of medical service and has nothing to do with what health care actually costs. The company plan also pays less for workers in the lower labor grades.

Lay the Boss Off — It Makes More Sense

The following article was written by a member of IAM Lodge 609.

Basically the contract which Olin has offered its workers would freeze wages at last year's average for the next three years for incentive workers. At the present cost of living average increases this would be a wage cut of some 20% over the next three years.

The Corporation's complete disregard of the previous contract through withholding vacation pay is a blatant violation of the contract.

The claim by the company that men are turning out poor work is perhaps true in some cases. But what about the company which demands tasks so high that you can't take the proper amount of time to do the job and still earn a reasonable rate.

The Olin workers have been out on strike for 12 weeks. They have lost over $4.5 million dollars in wages. The Olin strikers are fighting a larger battle than the one in their own plant. The Olin contract will set the standard for all New Haven, so the workers at Olin are fighting for all working people in the city. AIM is raising money to support the Olin workers on strike.

SUPPORT THE STRIKERS

Send check, cash or money order to:

AIM Strike Fund
148 Orange Street
New Haven, Conn. 06510

If you want to help in any other way , call 787-0123

Articles, comments, letters are needed for the next issue of the 'Olin Strike News.'
If you have anything to contribute, write or call: AIM, 148 Orange St. , 787-0123

THE INHERITANCE

A MOVIE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF LABOR ORGANIZING IN THE UNITED STATES

SHOWINGS AT 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1
9:00 P.M. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

FREE TO OLIN STRIKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AT THE

BREAD & ROSES COFFEEHOUSE

"Hearts starve as well as bodies;/ Give us bread, but give us roses!"

538 STATE STREET, NEW HAVEN, 787-5049

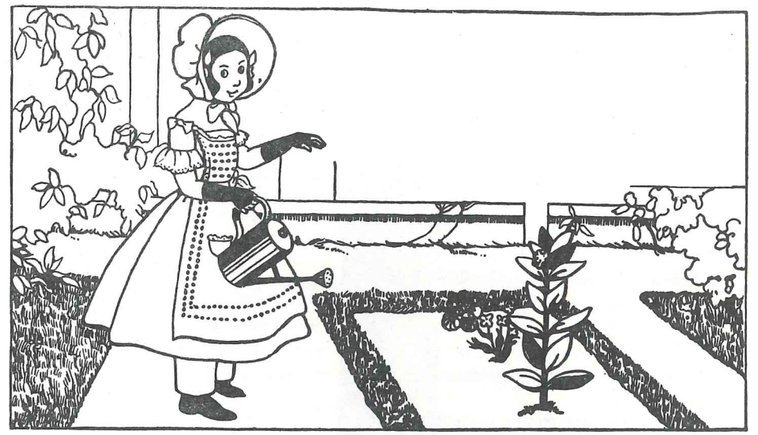
NOON TO MIDNIGHT

FREE COFFEE FOR OLIN STRIKERS

LABOR DONATED

YEAR OF THE SHE CREATURE, Continued from Page 7

One also finds that men don't know how to treat women as people. Their classifications include only mother, sister, date. If a woman is none of these, she can expect a response somewhere between hostility and bewilderment. The pressure is continually on her to be more intellectually masculine than the men, but, if she succeeds at it, he is rewarded only with slurs on her femininity. Most trying, perhaps, for the female graduate student is the daily battle she must make against the pervasive attitude that such women as herself are "too smart for their own good".



Yale Dames

The wives of students and faculty occupy a strange no-woman's-land between peonage and privilege. Wives of graduate students generally must work to supplement the meager fellowships Yale grants their husbands, and the work is seldom the kind that is intrinsically rewarding, but when money is short you take what you can get. Yale knows and exploits this fact (e.g., it rarely gives leaves-of-absence for pregnancy since 'they're here for only a short time anyway'). But the wives are encouraged to share in their husbands' glory and to consider themselves vicariously a part of Yale – thus the existence of an organization like Yale Dames, where one can sip tea and listen to a faculty man present a watered-down version of his work suitable to the understanding of 'ladies of quality'.

In truth there is no glory involved in being a non-faculty employee, even if your husband is a student. It's not a privilege to work for Yale – a notion which is implicit in the salary scale – it's an insult. The University has treated its employees as nothing more than a source of cheap labor. No consideration has ever been given to raising salaries so that it might be possible to work shorter hours. Neither day-care facilities nor adult education programs have been established to make the employees' lives easier.

At the same time that it exploits its employees, Yale acts to divide them as well. Organizations like Yale Dames are encouraged to keep women from joining together to attack their mutual problems. Faculty wives groups talk about the need for day-care center – for faculty and student wives, not for non-faculty employees. The wives become conditioned to take their identity from their men in order to retain any self-respect. And this helps to keep the salaries down.

In view of its grudging acceptance of the women already here, why did Yale decide it wanted to add women to the undergraduate student body? In a speech to alumni in February 1967, President Brewster attempted to outline the rationale for encouraging Vassar to move to New Haven.

Ask Not....

Brewster made passing reference to the shortage of places for women in 'private coeducational colleges of quality' and to Yale's obligation to help redress this imbalance, but he admitted candidly that 'our concern is not so much what Yale can do for women but what women can do for Yale.'

What Vassar could do for Yale was provide a corps of women to fill up Yale's undersubscribed courses and underutilized resources. 'This is simply an argument for full capacity in specialized fields...where we could not solve the problem by simply enlarging our own entering class,' Brewster told the alumni, but it looks also like a means of ensuring that learning is divided into 'feminine' and 'masculine' fields, for the women could be expected to keep the French Department in business in exchange for turning over their science departments to male domination.

Light My Fire

That such a division is indeed assumed is confirmed by Brewster's second and third arguments. Women would add a new element to the quality of discussion– something like 'the unique, feminine point of view'–and an added bonus would be the training Yale men would receive in arguing and otherwise dealing with women. 'The inclusion of women students in [classroom] discussions is bound to enrich and enlarge the variety of interests, points of view, and values taken into consideration....I was talking to one gentleman who...said that it certainly is true that at some point it is different arguing with a woman than it is with a man; I could only reply and say that they could never learn that too soon!'

Further, the women could be expected to provide a 'constructive stimulus to a higher level of performance' for all concerned. And just what feminine quality is it that will enable the women to do this? Their wit? wisdom? unique experiences? The answer is, none of the above. The stimulation is to come from what Brewster called their 'strange presence'–a presence that, thirty years ago when students approached learning with less seriousness than they do today, 'might have been of less certain intellectual value.'

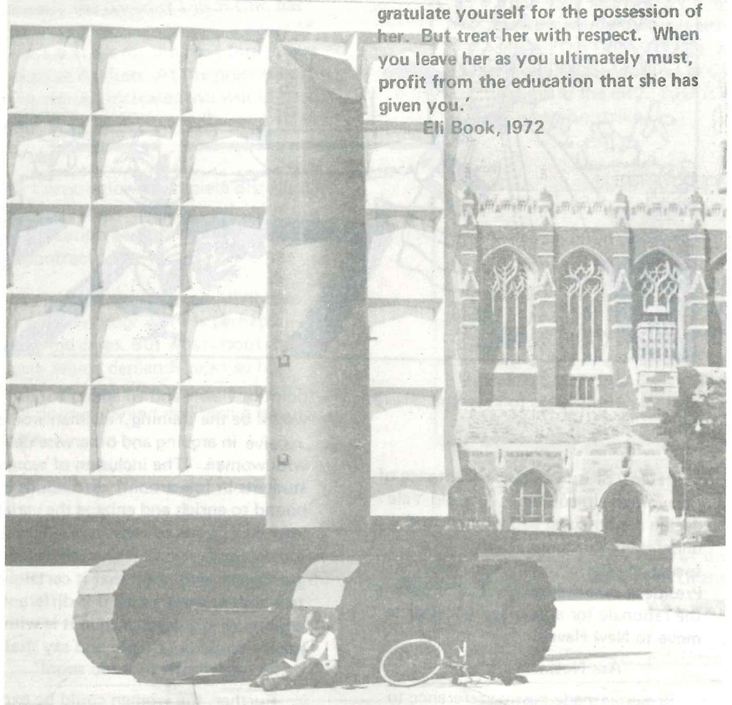
R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Yet, when we come right down to it, Yale's most important reason–and the one that was singled out by the Yale News Bureau in their press release–is that the presence of women nearby would 'substantially *raise the morai quality* of the four undergraduate Yale College years [italics added]'.

The women are to be the new conscience of the University. But how does one go about raising the moral quality of life at Yale? Brewster isn't clear, but his attempts to elucidate have intriguing

'Treat Yale as you would a good woman. Take advantage of her many gifts, nourish yourself with the fruits of her wisdom, curse her if you will, and congratulate yourself for the possession of her. But treat her with respect. When you leave her as you ultimately must, profit from the education that she has given you.'

Eli Book, 1972



'Women come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Some are good, others, average, and still others, unmentionable. The better ones wind up as Yale dates, the others....well, you know how it is.'

Eli Book, 1972

Virginia Fortino (Photo)

implications. 'The extracurricular challenges [sic] to moral development have long been a special and treasured strength of the Yale College experience.' Will the women be the new 'challenge' to Yale men's moral development? It's as if Yale is importing a temptress or two for the purpose of perfecting the men's resistance to evil.

And nice temptresses at that. At Yale, according to Brewster, 'the one area where human relationships have not been rewarded...on a high level of concern for human dignity has been the relationship between the sexes....The here-today-and-gone-tomorrow social life is not conducive to genuinely human concern or the development of responsible relationships.' Yale women will save the men from the necessity to rely on one-night-stands with local girls or, God forbid, another Susie incident. They will be women worthy of Yalies, of their own class and background and fitting helpmates for the 'Leaders of Men.'

I'd Rather Do It Myself

A word should be said in praise of Vassar's decision to reject Yale's propositions. Vassar was founded in 1861 for the express purpose of providing women with an education which had been denied them by the all-male colleges. Accomplishing this task involved not only the usual trials associated with starting a college from scratch, but the added problem that very few women were allowed to have sufficient education even to apply to college. Vassar—and some of the other women's colleges—had therefore to institute a preparatory course to bring their students up to freshman level. But they were resolved that an education for women, no matter how much preparing had to be done, should be all that education for men was. An added advantage of the women's college was that it served as a place for the professional woman to work, for at any of the male colleges she was considered to be an arrogant freak.

Although Vassar's adherence to the defiant principles of its early years may have loosened somewhat, it is tempting to hope that the 'traditionalists' among its trustees and alumnae retain a sense of the original mission to provide women with the first-rate education so systematically denied them by men. Perhaps they bear in mind that if our fate were left to men we would still not be able to read and write.

Super-Chick

Without Vassar, or a coordinate college like Vassar, Yale has run smack into the problem of how to devleop an image of itself as an institution sincerely dedicated to women's education. One look at the faculty is enough to show that Yale has little use for the skills of the woman who has taken her education seriously.

The solution is, naturally, to get a grant. Yale has applied to the Esso Foundation for funds to import female "role models", so the women can get a look at what they might turn out to be. This is consistent with the University's effort to create in its students an intellectual disdain for their less fortunate sisters typing their way to a skimpy monthly pay check But this is cruelly unrealistic, for as long as our society requires that women bear the burden of house-keeping and child-rearing, and as long as they are required to defer to the needs of their husbands, the fact that more than half the women who hold BA's are full-time housewives will remain fundamentally unchanged, and all the role models in the world won't help.

Better Homes And Gardens

From what we can see from Yale's attitudes toward women in general and its responses (or non-responses) to the women already associated with it, it is clear that this brave venture into coeducation is almost completely an effort to keep women in their place and nice women in a nice place. To this end a huge project has been under way all summer to prepare the campus for the coming 'strange presence.' The project—an expensive undertaking—reminds one of the efforts of a pair of first-time adoptive parents, slightly too old for parenthood, fixing up a special room for the new child and carefully outfitting it with all the things they think a child is supposed to want and need.

Yale's rather pathetically gallant attempts to cater to what it supposes must be the peculiar needs of women have this air of well-intentioned futility.

Nesting Instinct

In order to allow a woman to indulge her feminine desire to 'make her nest,' the University is spending $1000 per girl on furnishings and renovation of rooms. New 'feminine' additions to the Yale dormitory scene will be ironing boards and washing machines (!), hair dryers and full-length mirrors. Add to the $500,000 total refurbishing cost an extra $20,000 for tree planting (they shield the windows), fences and carefully selected shrubs, and you have the total beautification package—paint, trees, and women.

To care for the new women properly, according to John Embersits, the Business Manager, the dining hall will serve more high-protein foods ('it will mean some impact on food cost'), the campus police will try to be more visible ('so the girls will see them patrolling') and extra lights will be installed on the main traffic areas of the campus ('girls want to feel safer and like to have the close proximity of men').

This is not to deny that Yale students deserve clean, functional, attractive rooms, but the effort to beautify the facilities is directed only at the women, as if they were coming to Yale not for the hard business of learning, like the men, but merely for the fun of it.

More Expansion

There is something else Yale stands to gain by bringing in women. Brewster has stated that the University was limited in the number of women it could accept by the present size of its physical facilities. If and when Yale was able to expand, more women could be expected.

Residents of the city know what is going on. Yale is destroying New Haven as a community and replacing it with student housing, classrooms and labs, and parking garages. It is becoming clear that Yale basically has one way of dealing with everyone: it makes endless commitments and puts a little money in the right places. It talks, it placates, it absorbs all demands, dissent, and anger. But it does not solve any problems, and it does not change its course of action. And now it seeks to continue this in the name of woman's education.

Moral Quality

Despite all the planning and funding and study and worry, Yale has not come to grips with what education for women really means. Its notions of the meaning of education for men are snobbish and undemocratic: Yale trains 'leaders of men' who will be their 'brother's thinker.' By hoping to fit women into this scheme unobtrusively, the University (and the women) will find that there is no room for women to fill either of these two roles and that a BA from Yale will make it more difficult for them to settle easily into the home-maker role society expects. Because of this contradiction it is possible that the women may be the first sizeable group at Yale to question seriously the purposes and influence of private higher education in this society, and if their questioning turns into challenging, then perhaps the women really will 'raise the moral quality of the four undergraduate Yale College years.'

LIBERATION

We are a standing army
at war now,
our future clear,
battles past remembered...
We move breast to breast
(yes) We practice
left
right
in our heads, guns
ready (guns, yes)
weapons of self
polished
each part examined
relearned

I define my Self
Now
as a soldier,
(liberator?) (yes)
Beside me a
Comrade, woman,
friend

We go forward...

—Casi Eisenman

SHE SPEAKS OUT

As our fathers resisted unto blood the lordly avarice of the British ministry... so we their daughters never will wear the yoke which has been prepared for us. We would rather die in the alms houses than yield to the wicked oppression attempted to be imposed upon us.

Factory Girls Assn., 1835

In education, in marriage, in everything, disappointment is the lot of woman. It shall be the business of my life to deepen this disappointment in every woman's heart until she bows down to it no longer.

Lucy Stone, 1855

Give your heaviest raps on the head of every Nabob who does injustice to a human being for the crime of color or sex!

Susan B. Anthony

If particular care and attention are not paid to the ladies we are determined to foment a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound to obey any laws in which we have no voice or representation.

Abigail Adams to husband John, 1776

Will it be answered that we are factious, discontented spirits, striving to disturb the public order, and tear up the old fastnesses of society? So it was said of Jesus Christ...So it was said of our forefathers...So it has been said of every reform...We fear not man as an enemy. He is our friend, our brother. Let women speak for herself and she will be heard.

Frances D. Gage, 1851, feminist

YOU TOO CAN QUOTE FROM THE PAST!
Revolutionary Quotations from the Thoughts of Uncle Sam costs $1. Write to
Johnny Appleseed
Patriotic Publications
P.O. 50393
Cicero, Illinois 60650

THE PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY

"There was no food in the house and I didn't want them to go to school hungry and then come home hungry too. I felt that if I kept them at home with me, at least when they cried and asked for a piece of bread, I would be with them and put my arms around them."

Study on Welfare, Outreach 1965.

"It used to be that we went hungry the last few days of the month; now it's the last fifteen days of the month."
—A senior citizen reporting to Friendship House, Washington, D.C.

"They tell me they're hunger all the time. Sometimes they cry."
—Testimony from South Carolina Hearings.

"The U.S. today possesses all the physical resources necessary to insure that every person has the opportunity for a full and nutritious diet. We have the food, and we have the most efficient system in the world to distribute it. All that is necessary is to use the resources efficiently and humanely. We are well able to do that within current production levels consistent with the limitations of production that currently take place," So spoke former Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman.

by Bob Eisenman

Despite the "anguish" of high public officials, 30 million Americans live in poverty and at least 10 million suffer from hunger and malnutrition. Why is this situation allowed to exist?

While these millions of Americans go hungry, Congress authorizes billions of dollars ($55 billion since 1957) to pay big landowners *not to grow* food, and thus to raise the market price for products and to divert millions of acres from farm use (more than 35 million acres in 1967). And things are not improving...

We Just Don't Know

As late as 1967, the Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. William Stewart, was able to testify that "We do not know the extent of malnutrition anywhere in the United States.... I cannot say what the extent is, because we just don't know."

Suddenly, however, public officials, liberal politicians, and health professionals, who were content to sit on their hands for years, are bursting out in a chorus of public, very public, investigations of hunger. The "Politics of Hunger", as John Hamilton calls it, has resulted in exposing a damning picture of poverty and hunger in the richest nation in the world.

A study now being undertaken by the Public Health Service has already caused Dr. Arnold E. Schaefer, the Public Health Service's nutritional expert, to point out that the results of the early test samples "are similar to—and in some cases worse than—the results from nutrition surveys of developing countries around the world."

Incomes of the families studied by the Public Health Service so far range from $180 to $40,000 a year. Although the study was not limited to the poor, 80% of the families earned less than $5000 a year and more than half were Southern blacks.

Results Sickening

The results of this preliminary study as reported to the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Related Human Needs were deeply shocking, indeed sickening. Dr. Schaefer told the Committee that 17% of the people studied were undernourished enough to be considered "real medical risks".

Dr. Schaefer found seven cases of *kwashiorkor* (protein deficiency) and *marasmus* (lack of caloric content in diet) —diseases thought not to exist in the U.S. In addition Schaefer found a number of vitamin deficiency diseases (like rickets, night blindness, and scurvy) thought to have been wiped out in the 1930's.

Of the children under six years of age in the study, 33% were anemic. Children less than three years old were smaller than the national average. Wrist bone x-rays of 120 youngsters showed that 3.5% were victims of stunted growth and development, a condition often accompanied by mental retardation. Nearly 2/3 of the children in the study were receiving inadequate supplies of iron.

Widespread Hunger

According to estimates of the Citizens' Board of Inquiry into Hunger and Malnutrition in the United States, the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Department of Agriculture, hunger and malnutrition affect between 10 and 15 million Americans. These families are unable to spend even the 75¢ a person a day needed to purchase a minimal diet as recommended by the Department of Agriculture's Economy Food Plan.

In addition, the Economy Food Plan requires a great deal of sophistication in buying and preparing food, shopping in quantity, and bargain-hunting. Even if a person had the 75¢ a day, Faith Clark of the Department of Agriculture reports, the knowledge required to follow the plan is so great that the odds are 10 to 1 against the person's being able to follow it.

There are approximately 1600 counties in which at least ¼ of the households have a poor diet. There are 25 counties with 50,000 or more people estimated to have poor diets.

Hunger is not limited to the rural South. In fact, there is only a slight variation in the quality of diets in the different regions and between urban and rural households.

The quality of diets in the U.S. has actually *decreased* from 1955 to 1965. The more money you have, the better your chance is to obtain a good diet.

Malnutrition's Toll

The effects of incomplete or improper diets can be disastrous. Malnutrition can make itself felt even before birth.

Poor women have greatly increased chances of producing premature infants and/or having complicated pregnancies and deliveries. Their children have a greatly increased risk of brain damage or slow development and special needs. Malnutrition complicates educational problems.

The causes of premature births and other complications of pregnancy include small bone size of the mother (probably due to poor nutrition and illness in *her* childhood) and poor nutrition and infectious diseases during pregnancy.

The World Health Organization has shown that Malnutrition causes a lowering of resistance to infections. This affects a growing child as well as an expectant mother.

Lack of protein in the diet of youngsters may cause severe and possibly irreversible brain damage. A Department of Agriculture research specialist has stated that the human brain develops to 90% of its full weight before the age of four. If sufficient proteins are not supplied in this critical period, the brain just never properly develops.

Besides specific diseases (kwashiorkor, marasmus, scurvy, rickets, etc.) malnutrition also contributes to anemia, listlessness and apathy, disabilities resulting from inadequate growth, and a shortened life expectancy.

Malnutrition also takes its toll in other ways: hunger for food overrides hunger for knowledge.

"Teachers and principals have repeatedly told the Board [of Inquiry into Hunger and Malnutrition in the U.S.] the obstacle which hunger places in their way —in the form of listlessness, fights over food, inattentiveness, acute hunger pangs, withdrawal, a sense of failure."

Fradulent Government Programs

The federal government administers several programs which it claims are designed to alleviate hunger and poverty. But in practice these programs are a sham.

The government's two major food assistance programs are the Commodity Distribution Program and the Food Stamp program. But these programs have dual and often conflicting purposes.

The purpose of one is "... to improve the nutrition of ... families in need of food assistance *and to increase the market for domestically produced foods acquired under surplus removal and price support operations.*" And the other "... to improve the diets of low income households *and expand the market for domestically produced food* by supplementing the food purchasing power of eligible low income families."

The Commodity Distribution Program sends surplus foods to participating counties each month for distribution to eligible families free of charge.

The Food Stamp Program allows eligible families to purchase food stamps, which can be used to buy food (at supermarkets) worth more than the cost of the stamps.

It is one thing to have programs to help people get the food they need. It is another thing altogether to tie these programs into an agriculture policy which seeks to maximize profits for large farmers and food producers.

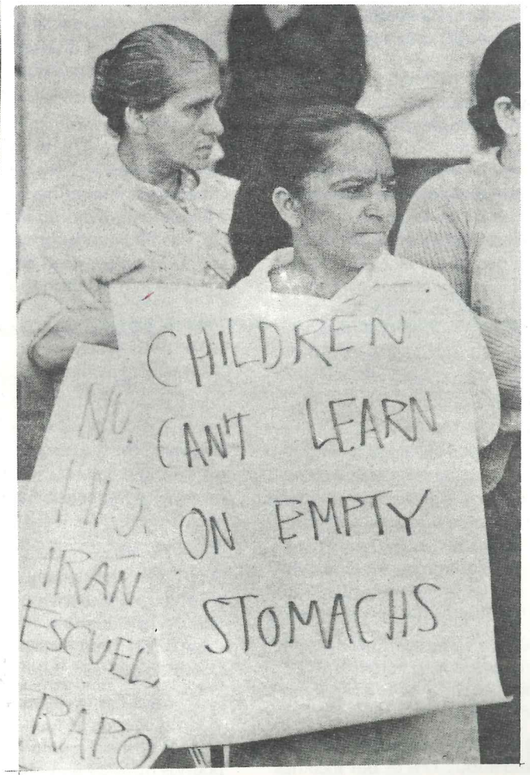
Since 1957 Congress has authorized $55 billion to restrict food production and to raise market prices, while during the same period only $25 billion was approved for all the programs which are supposed to deal with poverty and hunger.

As the Citizens' Board of Inquiry into Hunger and Malnutrition concluded:

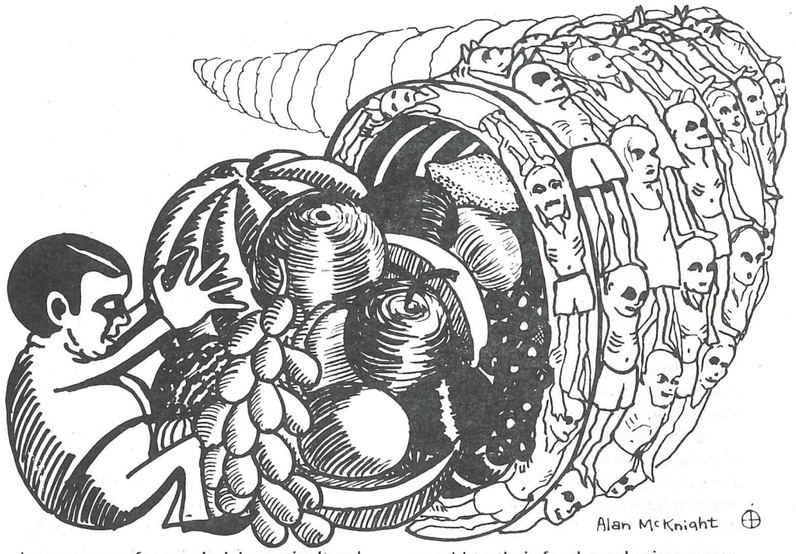
We feel fairly confident that most Americans must believe — if they think about it at all — that the federal food programs ... are designed to serve the interests and needs of beneficiaries. This is not true.

They are designed and administered within the context of the national agriculture policy. That policy ... is dominated

photo by Howard Harrison



Handwritten signs tell welfare story in N.Y.



by a concern for maximizing agricultural income, especially within the big production categories. Other objectives always yield to this one. Those other objectives include farm production, soil conservation, the welfare of the individual farmers, and farm employment.

Another disgrace of the food assistance programs is that they only reach a fraction of the people who need improved diets.

With at least 10 million people unquestionably malnourished and another 10 to 20 million people with borderline or poor diets, the two main federal programs reach only 5.4 million people, and these people are only reached inadequately at that.

Each local county must decide to participate in one of the federal programs or the other (a county *cannot* participate in both). Therefore no matter how serious the problem of hunger and malnutrition is in a county, the local politicians can decide that that county will not participate, and the hungry people of that county just remain hungry.

Thousands are excluded from the Commodities Distribution Program because their income is higher than the state-set eligibility level, yet substantially below the OEO estimate of the poverty line. For example, in some states a family of four with an income of only $1,800 a year is still ineligible for the program.

In addition some counties discontinue the program during harvest to "... maintain the cheapest possible supply of Negro labor".

While you and I and most American families spend about 17% of our incomes for food, the poor who buy food stamps to add to their food purchasing power must spend 30 to 50% of their incomes just to buy the food stamps!

The same people who cannot afford the food they need because our agricultural policy keeps the food prices above their means also cannot afford the high cost of the food stamps.

There is also a long impressive list of administrative disasters which make it difficult if not impossible for people to participate in the government's programs.

Single government offices, inconveniently located, with short or sporadic hours, have effectively discouraged participation. Commodities are usually distributed once a month in boxes weighing close to 95 pounds for a family of four, and food stamps must be purchased once a month in one lump payment.

The People Starve Anyway

But perhaps the most tragic and ironic feature of the food assistance programs is that they don't achieve their aims even for the people that manage to get on the programs. These programs in no way insure a person a minimally adequate diet!

The Department of Agriculture has determined that a family of four should spend over $90 a month in order to obtain a nutritious diet. The total retail value of the food distributed under the Commodities Distribution Program – $20.

Each month a family of four should eat 308 pounds of food, including 50 pounds of meat, poultry or fish, and 176 pounds of fruits and vegetables. The food actually distributed under government programs amounts to less than 100 pounds total, including less than 8 pounds of meat, poultry, fish, and less than 5 pounds of fruits and vegetables.

As the following comparison shows, the purchase value of food stamps is considerably below the amounts required to maintain a low-cost nutritionally adequate diet according to the Agriculture Department.

Family Size	Amount Required	Value of Food Stamps
1	$27.60	$12
2	67.30	24
3	81.00	38
4	98.70	48

With all these problems, it is not at all surprising that studies have shown families on the federal food assistance program still have seriously deficient intake of nutrients.

For example, in 1967 the Department of Agriculture studied two counties in Mississippi. The report shows the diets of food program participants and non-participants as about equal.

The average food consumption and nutrient content of the diets of the families eligible for the food stamp program in Washington and for the food distribution program in Sunflower County are considered poor.

Sunflower County is the home of anti-black, anti-labor Senator James O. Eastland who was paid over $200,000 a year by the federal government *not to grow crops.*

How will the poor get the food they so desperately need? The unforgiveable answer is that most of them won't. They won't because profits come first for big business, including big agriculture, and big business comes first for the present system of government. Poor people come last.

We live now in a society in which at least one out of every seven persons exists in poverty and at least 10 million people are malnourished. But the needs of the poor stand in opposition to the goals of the more powerful sectors of society.

The poor need food (along with better jobs, housing, education, medical care). The corporations, large land owners, and the federal government (by its support of big business) want higher profits.

And because of this difference in priorities and goals, the ppor are doomed to suffer, to go without, and to die—unless food production is planned according to the needs of the people, not the profit-hungry food-producing industry.

NEWS BRIEFS

CMHC Undercuts Community, continued from p. 2

Redlich, "Seven Together" asked the dean to put this agreement in writing, but *he refused.* When Dean Redlich did write a statement, it was unacceptable to the representatives, who then wrote their own statement. The dean said he could not sign it and would need 24 hours to think about it. Because the dean was anxious to leave, the "Seven Together" saw his attitude as an unwillingness to deal with these serious problems. There were loud expressions of contempt for Dr. Redlich and Mr. Kaplan expressed by neighborhood residents, and Fred Harris shook the dean in exasperation. This meeting then broke up without concrete results.

On September 4, Dean Redlich released a statement confirming Dr. Reiser's autonomy to deal with the community. A meeting was set for Wednesday, September 17, between Dr. Rieser and "Seven Together". A day before the scheduled meeting, Dr. Reiser informed Mr. Harris that he could not renew his contract, as Special Assistant to the Director, which was due to expire September 30, this year.

At the meeting at CMHC, Dr. Reiser was asked if he intended to rehire Mr. Harris. He said no. When asked why, he said he could not work with someone who attacked his employer. However, Dr. Reiser informed the group that he intended to keep the position open. After a tense discussion, he agreed to the demand that "Seven Together" select the representative for this job, if in addition they could provide a grievance mechanism. After the meeting, the people elected Mr. Fred Harris to the position of Special Assistant. to the Director

On September 23, Dr. Reiser informed Mr. Harris that neither the State of Connecticut nor Yale University would pay Mr. Harris and that he would try to locate Foundation funds for this purpose. The same day a number of State Troopers and police personnel were brought into CMHC.

On September 24, a meeting was held outside CMHC for Dr. Reiser to sign the contract as was agreed in the September 17 meeting. Dr. Reiser agreed to the qualifications, duties and responsibilities as described in the contract but announced that both Yale University and the State refused to provide funds for the salary for Mr. Fred Harris on the grounds that Mr. Harris' actions of September 2 made him unacceptable. Dr. Reiser reaffirmed his committment to the hiring of Mr. Harris and stated that he would continue to look for money from outside sources. Dr. Reiser, however, refused to sign the contract at this time. Thus, the inner-city community was again undercut in its attempts to assert meaningful control of a component of the Yale University Medical Center.

As this paper goes to press, a university-community meeting is the next step in the fight for community representation.

WOMEN TOGETHER IN FAIR HAVEN

Women in Fair Haven have taken some big steps towards women's liberation this summer through their work in the Fair Haven Mothers Program. Several women from the neighborhood decided to organize a summer program which would give women a chance to get together regularly and talk, free for a few hours from their children and housework. About ten women from the Fair Haven Betterment Association and the Fair Haven Twilight program co-operated on the planning of a daily program which would provide child care from 9–11:30 weekday mornings and a place for mothers to talk over a cup of coffee.

The Betterment Association and the Twilight Program are both grassroots neighborhood organizations in which some people from AIM have participated for a year. This is how some of us got involved in planning the Mothers Program.

People in the planning meetings predicted that most women would drop off their kids and leave, except for maybe once or twice a week when they might stay for an hour or so of discussion. This was a good way to meet people and it provided an opportunity for mothers to begin to talk together about the problems women have in this society.

To everyone's surprise, the coffee room stayed as crowded and busy all summer as the childrens' room. Many women stayed from 9 to 11:30 every day for the eight-week program.

One mother of four young children, after the first week of the program said, "I never realized how lonely I've been at home all the time until I started coming here and being with all of you every day."

Not only did the women use the program to break out of the loneliness of their often isolating home lives, but they immediately began realizing the group potential in dealing with common problems. The sharing of individual crises (several womens' husbands went out on strike, one woman's husband died suddenly, many women's children had medical or emotional problems) often led to more generalized discussions of problems in the society and what could be done.

Although most of the mothers were accustomed to almost total private responsibility in their homes, they were very new to the public, group responsibilities of running the program all summer. Group discussions tended to be somewhat difficult or confused since most women, having been left at home with only young children, tired husbands, or occasional friends to talk to, were very embarrassed to find themselves with an audience of adults.

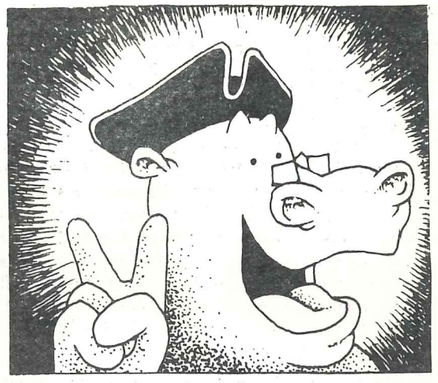
Some women reacted to this situation by waiting until someone else began talking, then turning to speak to whoever was nearest them. Others were so moved by finally being given the attention they deserved that they would talk almost continuously. Despite these limitations on organized group discussion, they made great progress in expanding the group and directing themselves toward longer range goals.

After some very interesting debate on whether or not a group did better to rely on its own resources or join with other groups to share and increase potential strength, the mothers decided to continue their program year 'round in cooperation with the Fair Haven Betterment Association. The most likely project may be to organize toward a real day-care center for the neighborhood. Some of us believe the only way to accomplish this is to get outselves together with other groups and form a large pressure group to get enough money from big corporations to set up good community-run day-cares. But clearly the first thing is to get something temporary set up this fall so we can meet together.

—Judy Miller

The PEOPLE'S News

THAT THE REGISTER WILL NEVER PRINT



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Matt Borenstein
Diane Dexter
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Mike Sand
Joan Vermeulen

Cover: Alan McKnight

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